

stiff media that can cause an effective overfeed as seen by the print head just downstream of the nip between the drive roller and pinch roller. The effective overfeed causes a print defect, known as a "bottom of form" (BOF) print defect. This print defect is often quite visible on images printed on premium photo paper, for example.--

Replace the paragraph appearing at page 4, lines 3-8, with the following:

92 --In accordance with an aspect of the invention illustrated in FIG. 3, the media path between the pick roller and the drive roller is defined by an upper guide surface 62 and a lower guide surface 64. The lower guide surface constrains the movement of the trailing edge 12A'' of the sheet 12'' resulting in the constrained sheet shape illustrated in FIG. 3. This prevents rotation of the paper about the front pinch roller 58, as would otherwise occur in the absence of a lower guide surface.--

Replace the paragraph appearing at page 4, lines 9-16, with the following:

93 --In exemplary embodiments, the spacing between the upper guide surface 62 and the lower guide surface 64 is increased from the media entrance location adjacent the pick roller to the media exit location adjacent the drive roller, thus providing a tapered media path between the guide. The spacing distance between them will depend on the particular system and media requirements; a typical range is from .5 mm to 5 mm. In an exemplary embodiment for addressing BOF print defects, the spacing between the upper and lower

guide surfaces is from 2.9 mm at the media entrance location to 3.6 mm at the media exit location adjacent the drive roller.--

Replace the paragraph appearing at page 6, line 33 to page 7, line 17, with the following:

94 --Referring now to FIG. 6, the media handling system of the printer 100 includes an upper media or paper guide structure 140 providing an upper guide surface 140A, which together with a portion of the curved guide surface 156 extends along the media path portion 145 extending between the pick roller and the drive roller. A lower media or paper guide structure 142 provides a lower guide surface in accordance with the invention, constraining the movement of the picked sheet in the portion of the paper path between the pick roller and the drive roller. For static control, the guide structure 142 is formed with a plurality of spaced ribs 142A extending along the media path direction and protruding from the structure surface 142B. The ends of the ribs provide the media contacting surfaces. The pick roller structure includes three spaced pick wheels 130 mounted on a shaft 144 for rotation. Wheels 146 are provided to assist in proper advancement of media such as envelopes through the media path. Slots 142C are formed in the guide structure 142 to allow the media contacting surface to extend between the rollers to provide support and prevent deformation of the print media in the regions between the rollers 130 and 146, as is more generally illustrated in FIG. 4.

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